

FREEMAN O. HODGE.

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MARCH 7, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. BURNHAM, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 729.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 729) granting an increase of pension to Freeman O. Hodge, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows:

Freeman O. Hodge, now 82 years of age, served as a private in Company D, Fifth Vermont Infantry, from September 15, 1861, to April 12, 1862, when honorably discharged.

He is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month, for total inability to earn a support by manual labor by reason of injury to right ankle, disease of heart, and senile debility.

This rating was granted on a certificate of medical examination dated March 16, 1898, which found him to be a sufferer from enlargement of the right ankle, tenderness of left knee and both shoulder joints, with limitation of motion of latter, sciatica, heart's action feeble with aortic systolic murmur and dyspnoea, disease of eyes, etc.

The soldier's affidavit, filed with your committee, sets forth that by reason of his great age (82 years), lameness, and nearly total blindness he is unable to do any labor; that he has no property, and that the pension of \$12 per month is insufficient for his support.

Medical and other testimony, also filed with the committee, shows that the soldier has been a sufferer since 1897 from organic disease of the heart with dropsy and chronic inflammation of the bladder; that he is in a very feeble condition, and that for the last fifteen months he has been a subject of public and private charity, having no other means except the pension of \$12 per month.

An increase of this soldier's pension to \$24 per month is warranted by reason of his great age, well-nigh helplessness, and great destitution.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.